

EDITOR'S REMARKS

A wonderful thing about evaluation is the seeming endlessness of perspectives, approaches, and audiences. Interests and concerns of evaluators and students of evaluation run the gamut from philosophy of science through mid-range theory to design, measurement, methodology, stakeholder relations, marketing, auditing, and accumulation of knowledge. The editors and editorial staff of *CJPE* are privileged to have the opportunity to see a good number of submissions across this broad spectrum of the corpus of evaluation interests. What comes in and when it arrives is haphazard and, apart from special issues and theme segments, what comes together in any regular issue of *CJPE* is truly random. When the calendar says it is time to prepare an issue for publication, we take stock of what has been accepted and throw the pieces together. This inevitably results in a bit of a hodgepodge of articles.

While this potpourri is a bit messy, it has many advantages. *CJPE* 28(2), like most of our issues, has something in it for all. Evaluation researchers and higher level thinkers will likely be most enamoured with Pattyn and Brans's empirical study that advances understanding of a long-standing issue made famous by Aaron Wildavsky in his classic piece on the self-evaluating organization. For our many readers who are interested in the implementation of Canada's federal evaluation policy, Bourgeois, Toews, Whynot, and Lamarche's lead article and Fraser, Tremblay, Bourgeois, and Lahey's insightful practice note provide both practical tools and revealing information about how agencies are managing expectations. Two articles delve into important methodological questions. Johnston addresses the use of case studies in evaluating First Nations' programs, and Scott provides an in-depth empirically informed conceptual treatise on informed consent. For evaluation practitioners, Lessard and Leclerc's practice note on real world application of the ubiquitous utilization evaluation approach will ring familiar. Finally, Danseco invites readers to consider what it takes to be an innovative evaluator and introduces us to five Cs that may well stick like the three Es so familiar to those of us who have lived in the world of performance auditing.

In line with the range of articles and practice notes, the book review section introduces three books on three very different aspects of the evaluation enterprise. Barbier and Hawkins break ground on the conceptual front, Aldrick and Rodriguez on the measurement front, and King and Stevahn on a more business-oriented practical front.

We are fortunate to be engaged in a field that is rich in diversity. The journal invites us all to step out of our usual comfortable place and journey to gain glimpses of what occupies others on a routine basis. Reading widely and beyond our usual spheres of interest will enrich our own practice and research.

Robert Schwartz
Editor-in-chief